

the bill that is being drafted in the dark corners and the dungeons of the Capitol where the light of transparency and truth never reaches.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says the Halloween health care will do the following things: It will cut Medicare part A for hospitals by \$128 billion. It will cut Medicare part B for doctor reimbursement \$130 billion. It will rob Medicare part C, Medicare Advantage, off \$133 billion. We are not through yet. And yes, Medicare part D for prescription drugs is cut \$20 billion. The total: \$411 billion cut for seniors and Medicare. That is enough to scare everybody.

This new Medicare part E takes a half-trillion dollars out of Medicare, but it doesn't cover the seniors. In this new Medicare part E, the "E" stands for everybody else, including those in the country illegally.

I know, they keep talking about and saying that illegals will not be covered. But when attempts were made to require proof of citizenship to sign up for Halloween health care handouts, the amendments were voted down. The bill also raises \$424 billion in new taxes.

Now why would they do that when the country is in a recession? The country is broke. We don't have the money. Well, Halloween health care will cost a trillion dollars, and they have to get the money from somewhere. We can't afford another thousand-page, trillion dollar bill. Our seniors are going to pay for more than half of the tab out of Medicare, and not one single senior will get more coverage out of this new health care bill.

Here is where it really gets dicey. The new Halloween health care proposal still rations health care services based on age. If you need a pacemaker, the snake oil salesmen are going to look at your age, the cost in what they call survivability rates. If the bureaucrats think your health care needs are just too expensive, they will hand out pain pills instead of approving that new pacemaker. That is what they already do in other countries where the government runs the health care system. In England it is called, and get this, the Quality Adjusted Life Years, and they have the power to make these life-and-death decisions on seniors.

When the Federal Government is in charge of health care, they are the only game in town and this so-called public option will be costly. You think health care is expensive now, just wait until it is free.

There are commonsense health care reforms we can all agree on. We don't have to have the government take over the whole system to fix what is specifically wrong with the system. That is like pulling all of your teeth when you have a toothache.

Halloween health care will be another thousand page, trillion-dollar bill. It will raise Medicare and other premiums, raise taxes, and slash Medicare coverage for seniors. This is not reform, that's abuse. But that is Hal-

loween health care and it is coming to your door. Trick or treat.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### MILITARY STRATEGY FOR AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, tonight I want to read a few paragraphs from an article written by Andrew Bacevich. It was in the American Conservative in May of this year, and the title is "To Die For a Mystique: The lessons our leaders did not learn from the Vietnam War."

"In one of the most thoughtful Vietnam-era accounts written by a senior military officer, General Bruce Palmer once observed, 'With respect to Vietnam, our leaders should have known that the American people would not stand still for a protracted war of an indeterminate nature with no foreseeable end to the U.S. commitment.'"

"General Palmer thereby distilled into a single sentence the central lesson of Vietnam: to embark upon an open-ended war lacking clearly defined and achievable objectives was to forfeit public support, thereby courting disaster. The implications were clear: never again."

I further read from the article, "To Die For a Mystique."

"To cite General Palmer's formulation, the citizens of this country at present do appear willing to 'stand still' when considering the prospect of war that goes on and on. While there are many explanations for why Americans have disengaged from the Long War, the most important, in my view, is that so few of us have any immediate personal stake in that conflict."

Again, that was from the book written by General Bruce Palmer.

Mr. Speaker, I further read from this article. This is the close. "The President who vows to 'change the way Washington works' has not yet exhibited the imagination needed to conceive of an alternative to the project that his predecessor began."

"The urgent need is to demystify that project, which was from the outset a misguided one. Just as in the 1960s we possessed neither the wisdom nor the means needed to determine the fate of Southeast Asia, so today we possess neither the wisdom nor the means necessary to determine the fate of the Greater Middle East. To persist in efforts to do so—as the Obama administration appears intent on doing in Afghanistan—will simply replicate on

an even greater scale mistakes like those that Bruce Palmer and John Kerry once rightly decried."

Mr. Speaker, I read this for this reason: I want to first say to the President, thank you for taking the time and thank you for being very careful in making your decision as to what our future plans are for Afghanistan. And, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to read this because Andrew Bacevich knows better than anyone. He fought in Vietnam for this country. He later became a professor at West Point. And during the Iraq war, he buried his son, a lieutenant, who was a graduate of West Point who was killed for this country. So I think we need to be very careful as we move forward, and I want to again say to the President, please take your time, make the right decisions for this country.

I have the privilege of having Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base in my country. I have gotten to know a lot of marines, both active duty and retired. I recently spoke to a general that I cannot name because I don't have his permission, but if I did, he would be well known to the Marine Corps.

□ 1730

He said to me 3 weeks ago, Please tell your colleagues on both sides of the aisle to move very carefully, to have a full, understood plan and a defined plan as to what we're supposed to accomplish in Afghanistan. Again, this general fought in Vietnam for this country.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will close as I always do by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform. I ask God to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. I ask God, in His loving arms, to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. I will ask God to bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right. I will ask God to give wisdom, strength and courage to the President of the United States, that he will do what is right in the eyes of God. And three times I will ask, God please, God please, God please continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### RYAN WHITE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to represent one of the most beautiful, most diverse regions in our country, south Florida. Sadly,

though, our local paradise, well known for its sunny weather, its world-class beaches, its artistic style, also is one of the areas hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We are continually confronted with the challenge of providing adequate and timely treatment to those impacted by this terrible disease.

The number of people suffering from HIV/AIDS in south Florida has increased immensely over the past few years. We have over 32,000 people currently diagnosed in my home county of Miami-Dade, and it ranks second among large metropolitan areas for people living with AIDS. On top of this, Florida ranks third in the Nation on the number of AIDS cases. These individuals need our assistance in fighting this terrible disease.

There are wonderful programs designed to mitigate the terrible consequences of HIV/AIDS. One of the most innovative, one of the most effective is the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Program. This program funds HIV/AIDS treatment for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured people. Ryan White provides funding to cities, to States, as well as directly to select clinics and care providers for core medical and support services.

In 2009, my home State of Florida received over \$209 million in funding through Ryan White to assist countless low-income Americans living with HIV/AIDS. This life-saving program was set to expire this month. Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, this amazing program was granted a 3-year extension through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act, and I thank my colleagues for this.

With strong bipartisan support, this bill was overwhelmingly approved. I voted for and the House passed this legislation, and we should all be proud of that. Passage assures the continuity of this vital program. It will allow us to help States, communities, and families cope with the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic while creating a support system for those dealing with the disease.

I am constantly working to improve the quality and the availability of care for persons with HIV/AIDS and their families and their support system. It is my mission to promote awareness and education so that each day we can help assure that fewer people will be afflicted with this disease.

I have seen firsthand the impact this disease has had on so many individual lives and families in my community, and I know that extending this important program is not just a priority, but a necessity.

The Ryan White program is the largest federally funded program in the United States for people living with HIV/AIDS. It has been the largest supplier of services for those living with HIV/AIDS in the United States as well.

As a payer of last resort, the Ryan White Act offers a method of payment for treatment unlike Medicare or Medicaid. In the United States, over 500,000 people a year benefit from the Ryan

White program. I know that through the extension of Ryan White, we can—indeed, we will—save and improve the lives of countless individuals in my congressional district and throughout our great country of the United States of America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### RECOGNIZING HANOVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, our country faces many serious challenges, but it's sometimes useful to know that good things are still happening out there in the real world, out there across our country, and mostly away from Washington, D.C. So Mr. Speaker, I recognize tonight the Hanover Public Schools for their commitment to providing quality education.

Located in the community of Hanover in northern Kansas, the school serves about 175 students from the surrounding rural area. Though Hanover Public Schools are small by most standards, their accomplishments are great. The students, teachers, and administrators at Hanover Public Schools are dedicated to excellence in education. This excellence is evident by the recognitions that they have received.

For the past 3 consecutive years, Hanover High School has received the Kansas Governor's Achievement Award. This award is given to the top 5 percent of schools in Kansas that meet the highest standards on Kansas assessments. Only five other schools in our State have received this award 3 years in a row.

Not only has Hanover High School been recognized as one of the best schools in the State of Kansas, it has also been honored nationally. For the second year in a row, Hanover High School has been cited by U.S. News and World Report as one of the top schools in the country.

Having a well-rounded education means more than what can just be learned in the classroom. Students at Hanover Public Schools have also excelled in extracurricular activities. During the 2008–2009 school year, Hanover High School became State champions not in one, but in two sporting events. Last November, the Hanover High School football team took first place at State in the eight-man division. And after placing second at last year's State tournament, this year's Hanover High School basketball team placed first in the 1A division. The

team finished with a perfect record, winning all 28 games.

The success of Hanover Public Schools serves as a model for other schools in our State and across the country. That success could not be possible without the strong support of the Hanover community. Small-town values and small community ties have produced generations of successful graduates.

I commend the Hanover Public Schools for their success and for achieving their mission, to create a learning environment dedicated to developing lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

My congratulations to the students, staff, faculty, the Board of Education, and the community. I am honored today to recognize this outstanding school in the State of Kansas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GRAYSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.